

# SONIC THE HEDGEHOG SEASON 3



SHORT 3

THE MECHANIC'S  
PUZZLE



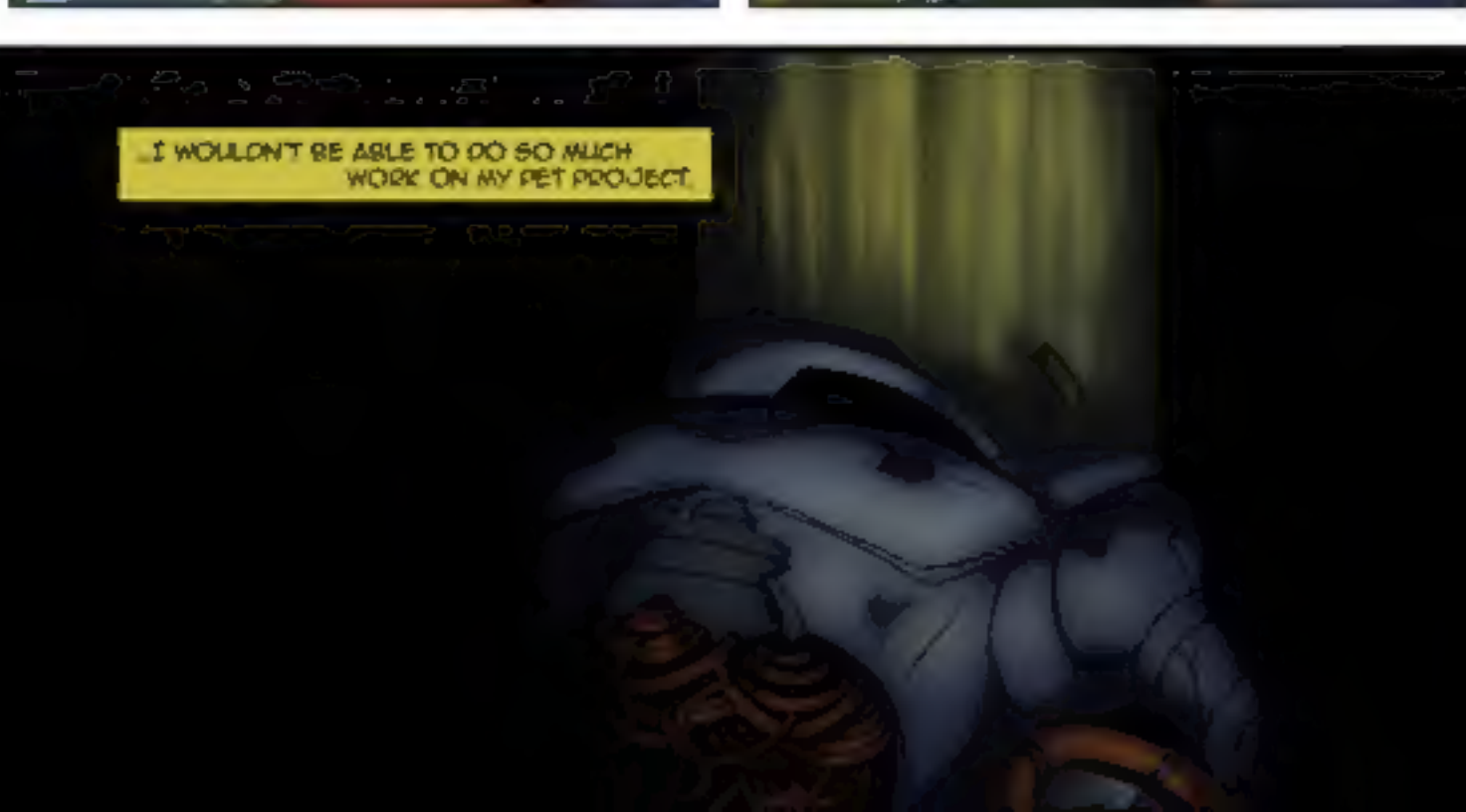
ROTOR'S JOURNAL, ENTRY #28.  
THE TEAM LEFT FOR ANOTHER MISSION TODAY.  
AS USUAL, I WAS ASKED TO STAY BEHIND.



IT USED TO BOTHER ME, I GUESS IT STILL DOES,  
A LITTLE, BUT I ALSO KNOW, IF I DIDN'T GET  
TO SPEND ALL THIS TIME HERE IN KNOTHOLE...



I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO SO MUCH  
WORK ON MY PET PROJECT.







# THE MECHANICS PUZZLE

WRITTEN BY ERIC MASON

ILLUSTRATED BY SAM HALE

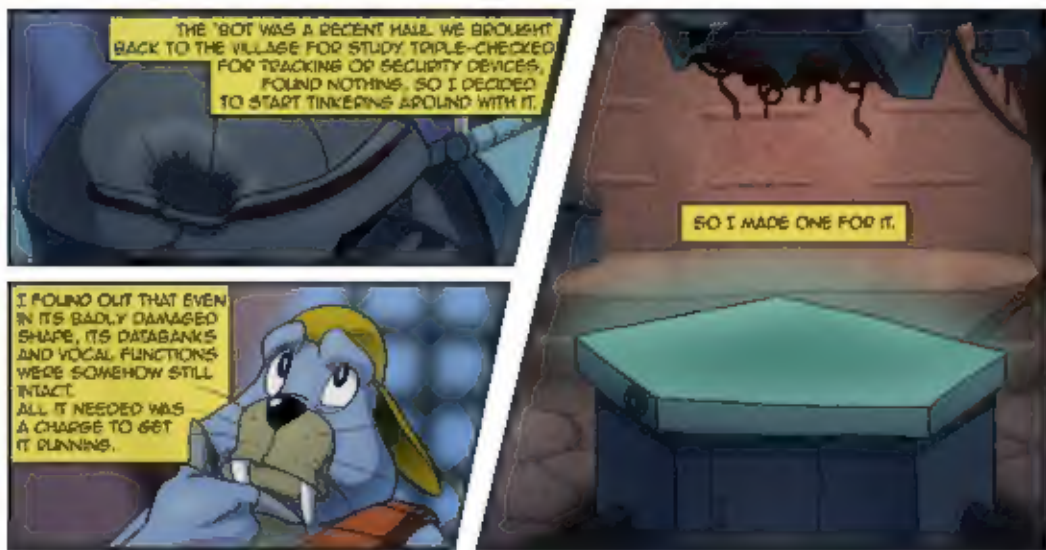
EDITED BY PAUL SCOTT AND JOHN ROBERTS


BASED ON THE "SONIC THE HEDGEHOG" CARTOON, CHARACTERS OWNED BY DIC AND SEGA

THE 'BOT WAS A RECENT HAIL. WE BROUGHT  
BACK TO THE VILLAGE FOR STUDY. TRIPLE-CHECKED  
FOR TRACKING OR SECURITY DEVICES.  
FOUND NOTHING. SO I DECIDED  
TO START TINKERING AROUND WITH IT.

SO I MADE ONE FOR IT.

I FOUND OUT THAT EVEN  
IN ITS BADLY DAMAGED  
SHAPE, ITS DATABANKS  
AND VOCAL FUNCTIONS  
WERE SOMEHOW STILL  
INTACT.  
ALL IT NEEDED WAS  
A CHARGE TO GET  
IT RUNNING.



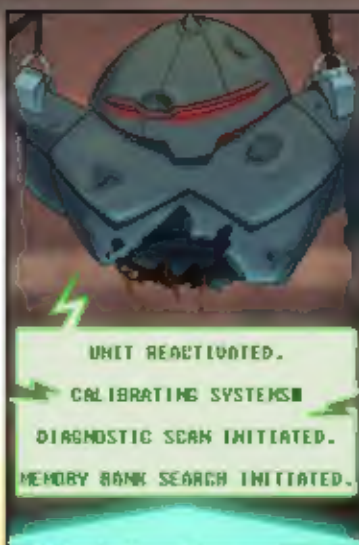


TO SEE IF WE COULD EXTRACT USEFUL  
INFORMATION FROM THE 'BOT.

TO TRY AND ANALYZE HOW IT REACTS  
TO THE SITUATION AND LEARN MORE ABOUT  
HOW IT'S PROGRAMMED. AND OF COURSE, THE  
OLDEST REASON TO DO ANYTHING IN SCIENCE...

TO SEE IF I COULD.

VRRRM!



YES, YES, YES!

IT WORKS!





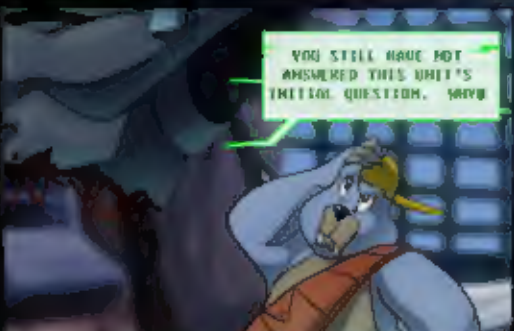


WHY SHOULD YOU NOT  
REPAIR THIS UNIT,  
EVEN IF YOU HAD THE  
CAPABILITY TO DO SO?



I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME!  
BUT YOU'DE A MACHINE,  
YOUR BRAIN'S A  
COMPUTER!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE  
TO ASK "WHY",  
THE ANSWER'S  
PROGRAMMED INTO YOU!

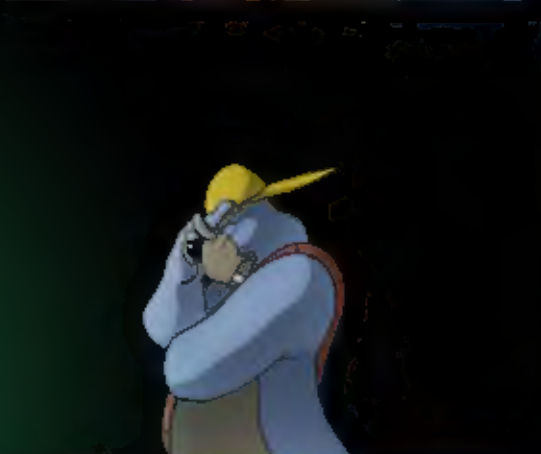


YOU STILL HAVE NOT  
ANSWERED THIS UNIT'S  
INITIAL QUESTION. WHY?



WON'T I REPAIR YOU,  
YEAH, I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME.

JUST...GIVE ME A  
SECOND HERE, OK?



SECOND GIVEN.  
PLEASE RESPOND TO QUESTION.



HOO BOY...



OK, TELL ME IF ANY OF  
THIS SOUNDS FAMILIAR.

YOU ARE A MACHINE,  
A SWATBOT.

BUILT IN ROBOTROPOLIS TO ACT  
AS SECURITY AGAINST ANY AND  
ALL THREATS.

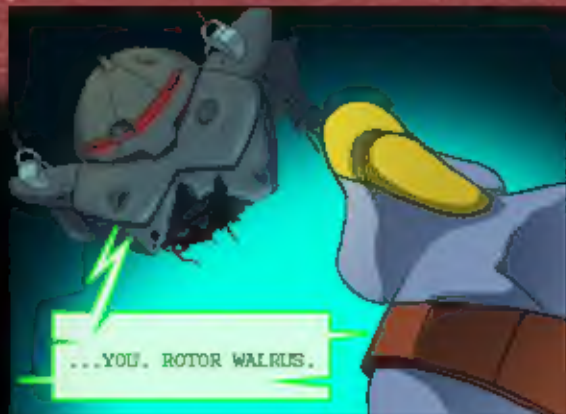
SWATBOT... ROBOTROPOLIS...  
TERMS RECOGNIZED.  
MEMORY BANKS, RE-CALIBRATING...




PRIORITY-ONE TARGETS IDENTIFIED.  
COLLECTIVE DESIGNATION: FREEDOM FIGHTERS.



INDIVIDUAL TARGETS INCLUDE...



...YOU. ROTOR WALRUS.



AND NOW YOU  
KNOW WHY I CAN'T  
REPAIR YOU.

BECAUSE WE'RE  
ENEMIES.

ANSWER INSUFFICIENT.




YOU ARE THE ONE WHO  
RE-ACTIVATED THIS UNIT.  
THIS UNIT HAS NO REASON  
TO CONSIDER YOU AN ENEMY.



THAT'S...  
I MEAN,

I DIDN'T THINK IT  
WAS POSSIBLE FOR A  
SWATBOT TO MAKE THAT  
CALL FOR ITSELF.



I WONDER...  
COULD THE SECOND-HAND  
ENERGY SOURCE BE AFFECTING  
YOUR PROGRAMMING  
SOMEHOW?



UNIT STILL REQUIRES -

HEH, DON'T YOU WORRY, PAL.

GIVE ME SOME TIME TO FIGURE OUT JUST WHAT'S GOING ON, AND I'LL PATCH YOU UP AS SOON AS I CAN!



...PAL?

WELL, SURE.

HONESTLY, YOU'RE THE FIRST SWATBOT I'VE EVER MET WHO DIDN'T WANT TO KILL ME, AND THAT'S REASON ENOUGH TO THINK OF YOU AS A FRIEND.



...PAL.



NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR A SWATBOT CALL ME THAT, BUT HONESTLY? IT FEELS PRETTY GOOD.

NOW THEN,

LET'S HAVE A LOOK 'N' SEE WHAT WE CAN SEE.





IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR SEARCH  
IF YOU REPAIR THIS UNIT!  
WHAT WILL THIS UNIT'S PURPOSE BE?

WELL, UM...I GUESS IT COULD  
UM...THAT IS, YOU'D, UM...

SORRY, NOT VERY GOOD AT THIS  
PARTICULAR BRAND OF MULTI-TASKING.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, THOUGH,  
IF YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO ASK THAT  
QUESTION, YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO  
FIGURE OUT AN ANSWER TOO.

THIS UNIT UNDERSTANDS...

THANK YOU.

...YOU'RE WELCOME.

WARNING, WARNING.  
THIS UNIT IS EXPERIENCING ENERGY IMBALANCE.  
SYSTEMS MALFUNCTIONING!!



WHAT?

OH MAN, OH MAN,  
THE GENERATOR'S ENERGY  
MUST'VE STARTED OVERLOADING  
YOUR SYSTEMS!

I'VE GOT TO DE-ACTIVATE  
THE GENERATOR!

IF THE GENERATOR IS DE-ACTIVATED,  
THIS UNIT WILL ALSO BE DE-ACTIVATED.

AND IF I DON'T DE-ACTIVATE  
THE GENERATOR, YOUR  
SYSTEMS WILL BURN OUT  
COMPLETELY AND I'LL  
NEVER BE ABLE TO  
FIX YOU!

LOOK...  
I KNOW IT'S ASKING FOR A LOT,  
BUT I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME HERE.

I'LL DEACTIVATE YOU NOW,  
BUT I PROMISE, ONE DAY I'LL  
FIND A WAY TO FIX YOU AND GET  
YOU ACTIVATED AGAIN!

PAL.

I UNDERSTOOD.





RRRRRRMMMMMVOOOOOOOO....

ROTOR'S JOURNAL, ENTRY #29:  
FIRST EXPERIMENT WITH  
GENERATOR COMPLETED. THE RESULTS...  
HAVE LEFT ME WITH MORE  
QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS.

IS THIS SWATBOT UNIQUE?  
CAN I FIND A WAY TO FIX IT SOMEDAY?  
IF I DID, WHAT WOULD WE DO WITH IT?  
WHAT WOULD IT DO FOR ITSELF?

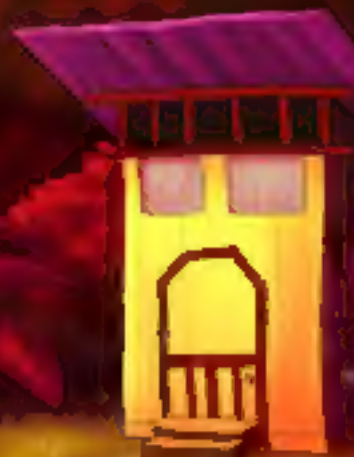


I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWERS FOR ANY OF THAT.

STILL, LIKE A  
GOOD SCIENTIST...



I WILL KEEP TRYING TO FIND THEM.



-THE END-





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NICOLE, let me in.

**I can't do that Sally....**

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG  
SEASON  
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